

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting whether a microphone is connected to a real-time audio communication system of a computer comprising:
 - recording an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;
 - filtering a DC component out of the audio sample;
 - determining auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;
 - comparing the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample to predetermined values; and
 - determining whether a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on a relationship between the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients and the predetermined values.
2. A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, for detecting whether a microphone is connected to an audio communication system of a computer, comprising instructions for causing the computer to:
 - record an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;
 - filter a DC component out of the audio sample;
 - determine auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;
 - compare the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample to predetermined values; and
 - determine the likelihood of a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients.
3. A computer system running programmed processes comprising a process for detecting whether a microphone is connected to an audio communication system of a computer, which process causes the computer system to:
 - record an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;
 - filter a DC component out of the audio sample;
 - determine auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;

- 7 compare the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample to
- 8 predetermined values; and
- 9 determine the likelihood of a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio
- 10 communication system based on the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients.

TECHNOLOGY